Protest by the Salt Federation/ Associations in Gujarat

120. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH :

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat salt Federation and other associations of Salt manufacturing in Kharaghoda and Dharangadhra in Gujarat have protested against the permission granted by the salt Commissioner to MRTP companies to sell their salt to other MRTP companies, if so, what are the details of their representations and the action taken thereon;

(b) whether Government are aware that such orders of the Department would deprive small-scale salt manufacturers and cooperative Societies from their share of market;

(c) whether it is also a fact that small producers have enough stock to supply to the big companies, if so, whether Government would protest the interest of workers' cooperatives in this sector; and

(d) whether licensing conditions of big companies allow such a practice to hamper the growth of small units, if not, what are the corrective steps proposed to be taken by the Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) Gujarat Salt Federation and some Salt Manufacturers' Associations in Gujarat have represented against the permission given to MRTP companies to sell their salt for industrial purpose in the domestic market stating that this will affect the small scale salt manufacturers.

The decision to permit MRTP companies to sell salt in domestic market was taken keeping in view all relevant factors including the stock position in Gujarat. Some of the other considerations were:

(i) Salt production during 1988-89 was less, due to good monsoon, resulting in reduced availability of industrial salt for chemical industries like Soda Ash and Caustic Soda.

(ii) With the liberalisation of export policy and as a sequel to the efforts of Government, export of salt has picked up during the last one or two years.

(iii) Demands from Chloralkali industry for industrial grade salt have been on the rise, in the recent past.

(iv) The need for keeping the price line down.

Small scale units normally produce salt to cater to the requirements for edible purposes. Governments protects the interests of small scale producers and cooperatiaves by providing rail wagon quota for movement of salt etc. The companies have to take permission under the MRTP Act, wherever necessary.

Transfer order for Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineers Limited

121. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA :

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chariman of the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited is trying to transfer orders worth Rs. 20 crores from Bharat Process and Mechanical En-

gineers Limited, a constituent of the Nigam to another company; and

(b) what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Extending the term of Chairman of Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited

122. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI CHATURNAN MISHRA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the term of the Chairman of the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited has been extended after superannuation ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Sick Industrial Units in Tamil Nadu

123. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of sick Central Industrial units in Tamil Nadu as on date, district-wise figures;

(b) what is the total number of workers affected in each district;

(c) how many units did become sick during the last three years; and

(d) how many sick units have been revived?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) This data is not being centrally maintaned.

(c) Data on sick industrial units is collected by Reserve bank of India and the latest available data from Reserve Bank of India is upto June, 1987 only. The comparative figures of sick industrial units in Tamil Nadu, for the last three years, are as follows:—

	No. of Sick SSI Units	No. of Large Sick Units
Dec. 1985 .	15,171	5C
Dec. 1986 .	17,024	53
June, 1987 .	25,146	105 (Non-SSI)*

**This rise in number of sick Units is due to change of definition of sick Units adopted by Reserv Bank of India since June, 1987. It includes the number of sick large and medium scale units.

Rates of STD calls

124. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reduced the rates of STD calls durin certain period, if so, what are th details thereof: